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THE INCREDIBLE HULK®

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AUTHORITY

SKRITCH
SKRITCH
MILLER HEIGHTS
CEMETERY
SKRITCH
SKRITCH
SKRITCH
HALF-
LIFE...
YOU'RE
LATE.
YES.
WELL...
I'VE HAD A LOT
OF PRACTICE.

Stan Lee PRESENTS: THE INCREDIBLE HULK!®

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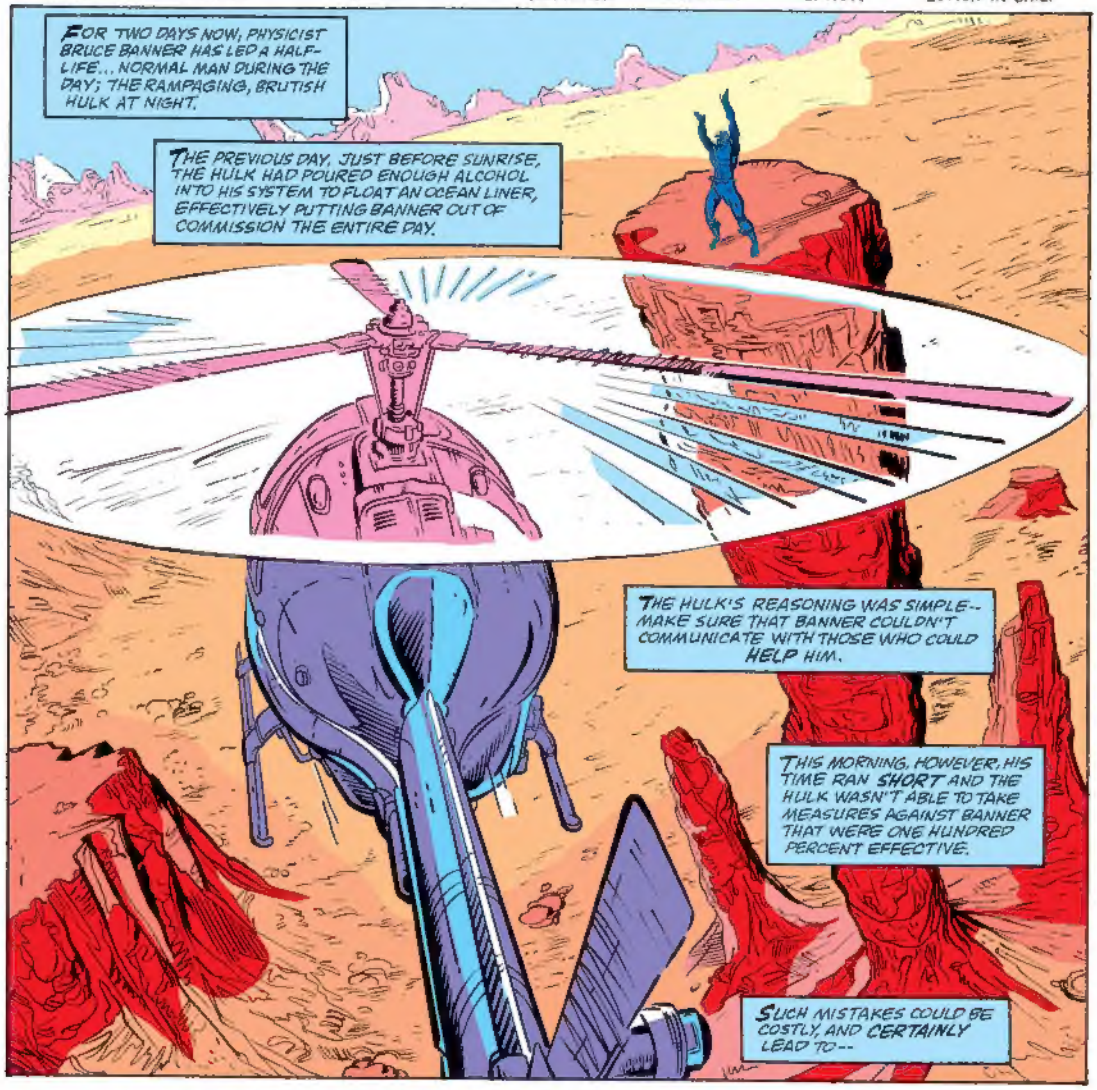
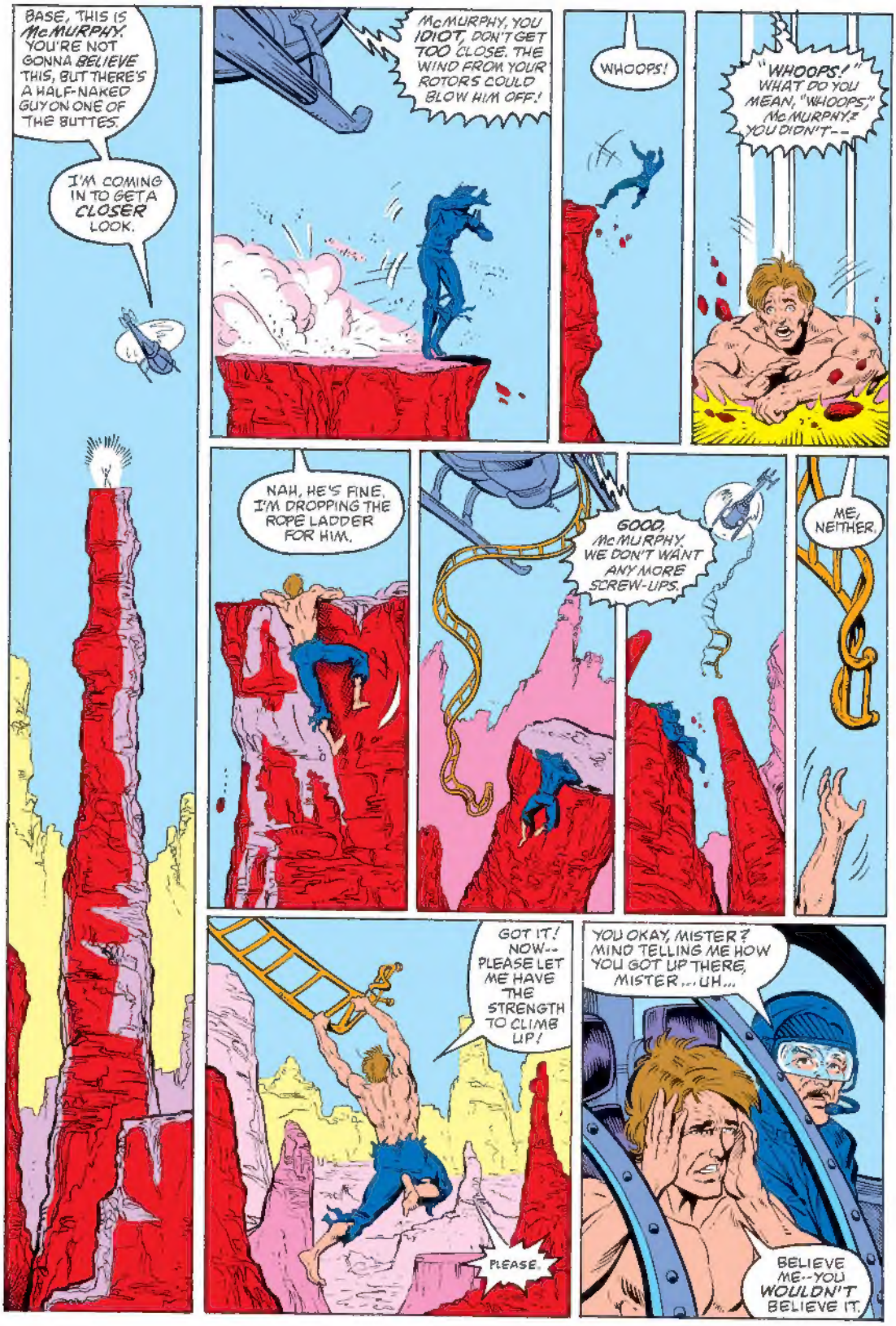
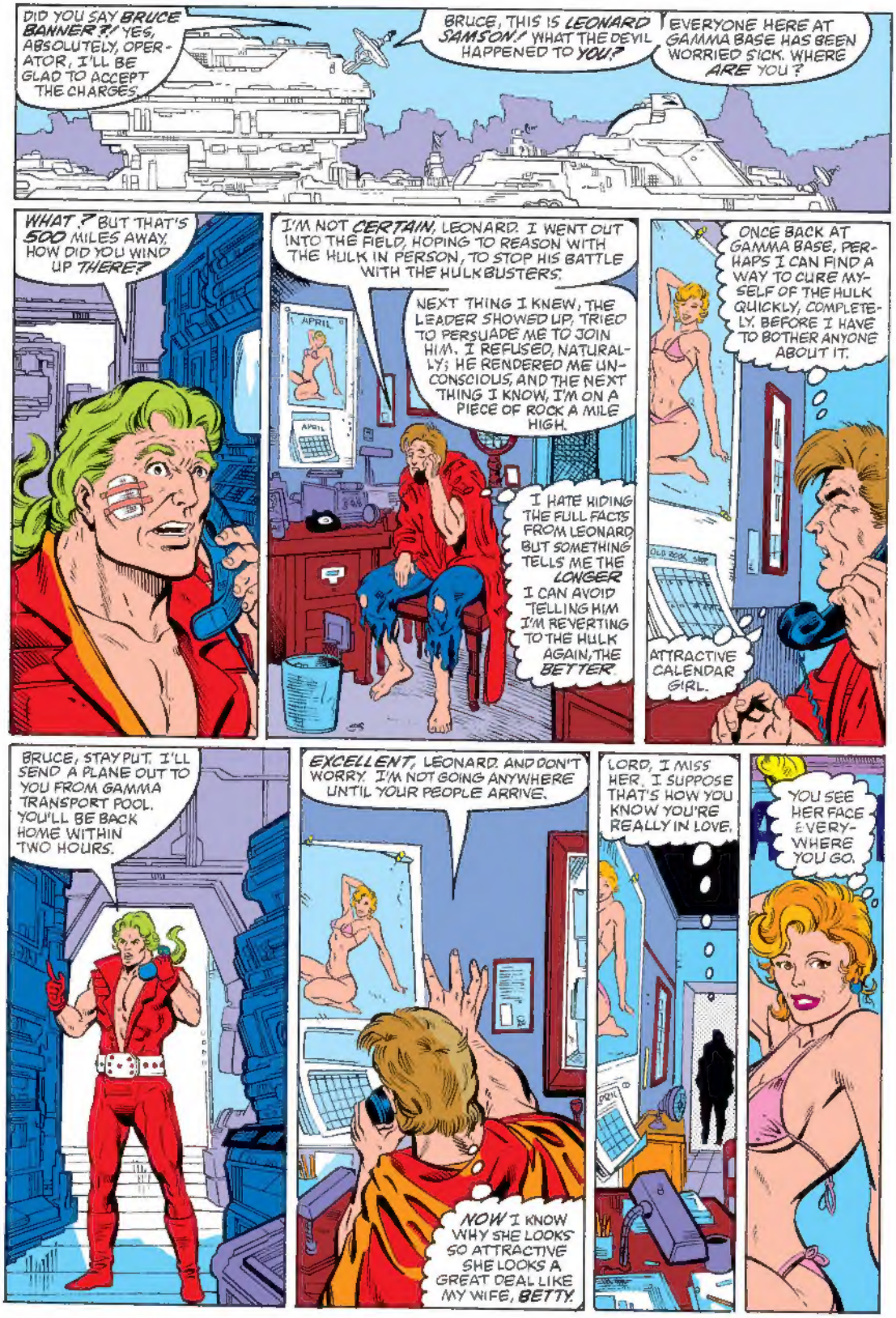
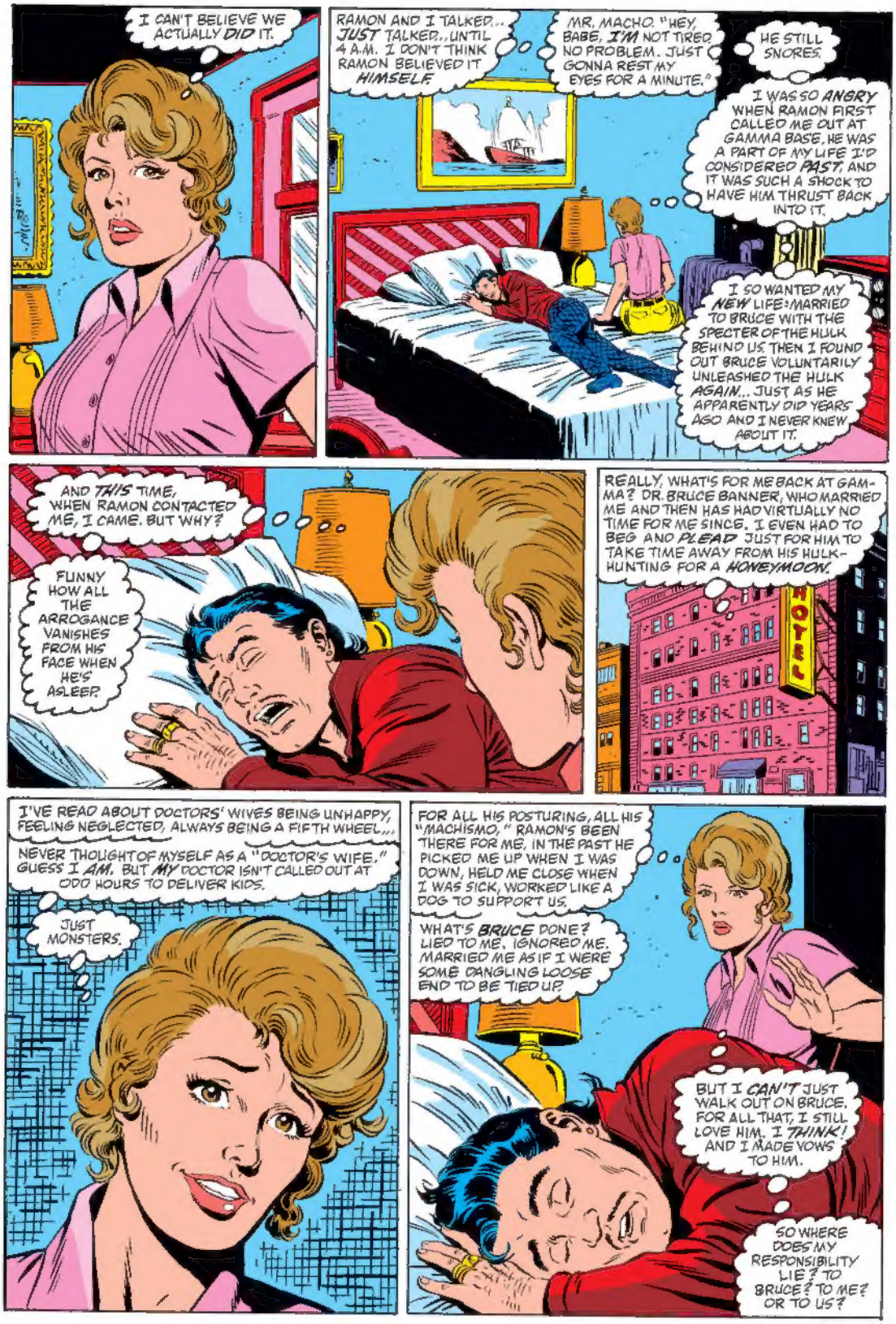
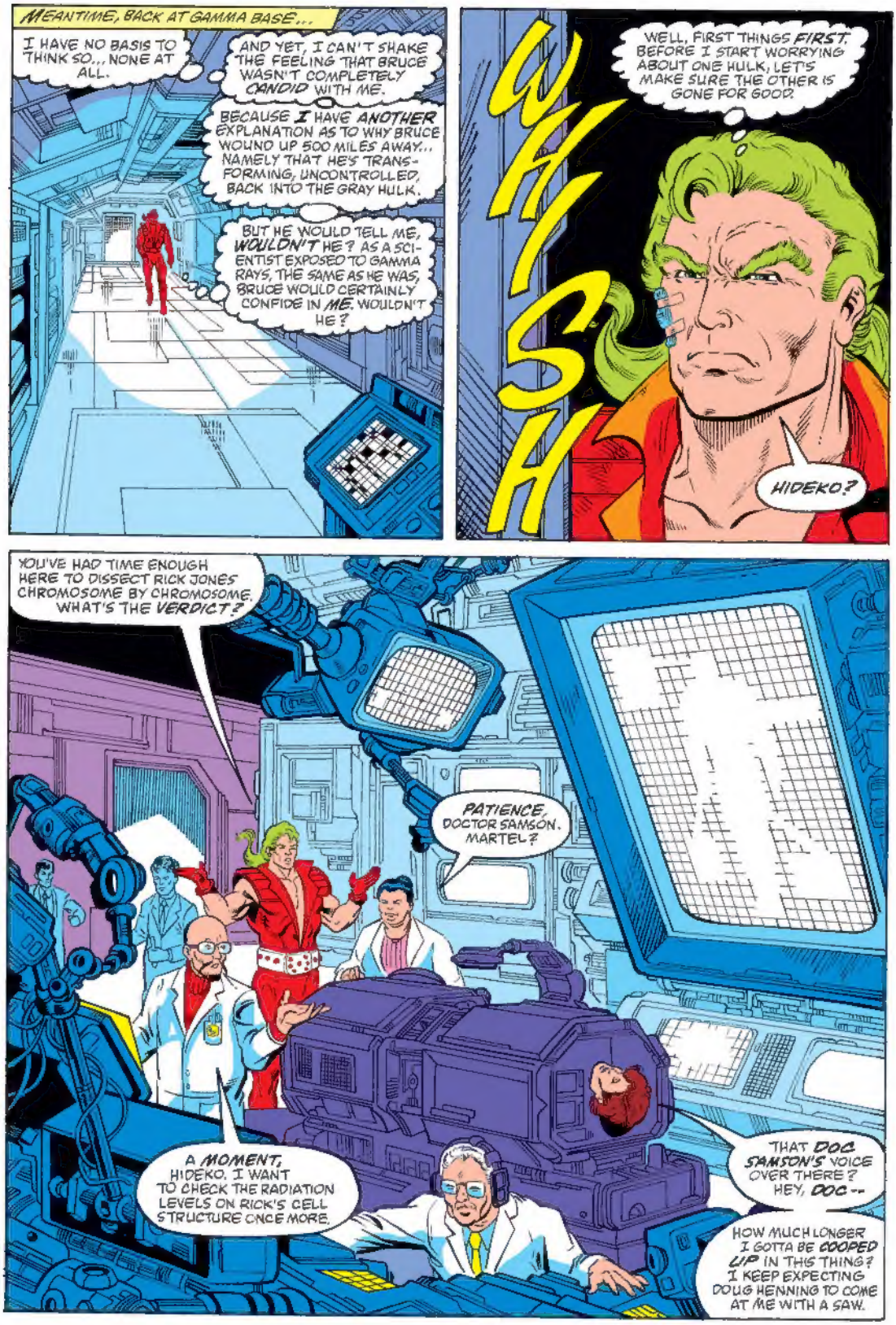

FOR TWO DAYS NOW, PHYSICIST BRUCE BANNER HAS LED A HALF-LIFE... NORMAL MAN DURING THE DAY; THE RAMPAGING, BRUTISH HULK AT NIGHT.
THE PREVIOUS DAY, JUST BEFORE SUNRISE, THE HULK HAD POURED ENOUGH ALCOHOL INTO HIS SYSTEM TO FLOAT AN OCEAN LINER, EFFECTIVELY PUTTING BANNER OUT OF COMMISSION THE ENTIRE DAY.
THE HULK'S REASONING WAS SIMPLE--MAKE SURE THAT BANNER COULDN'T COMMUNICATE WITH THOSE WHO COULD HELP HIM.
THIS MORNING, HOWEVER, HIS TIME RAN SHORT AND THE HULK WASN'T ABLE TO TAKE MEASURES AGAINST BANNER THAT WERE ONE HUNDRED PERCENT EFFECTIVE.
SUCH MISTAKES COULD BE COSTLY, AND CERTAINLY LEAD TO--

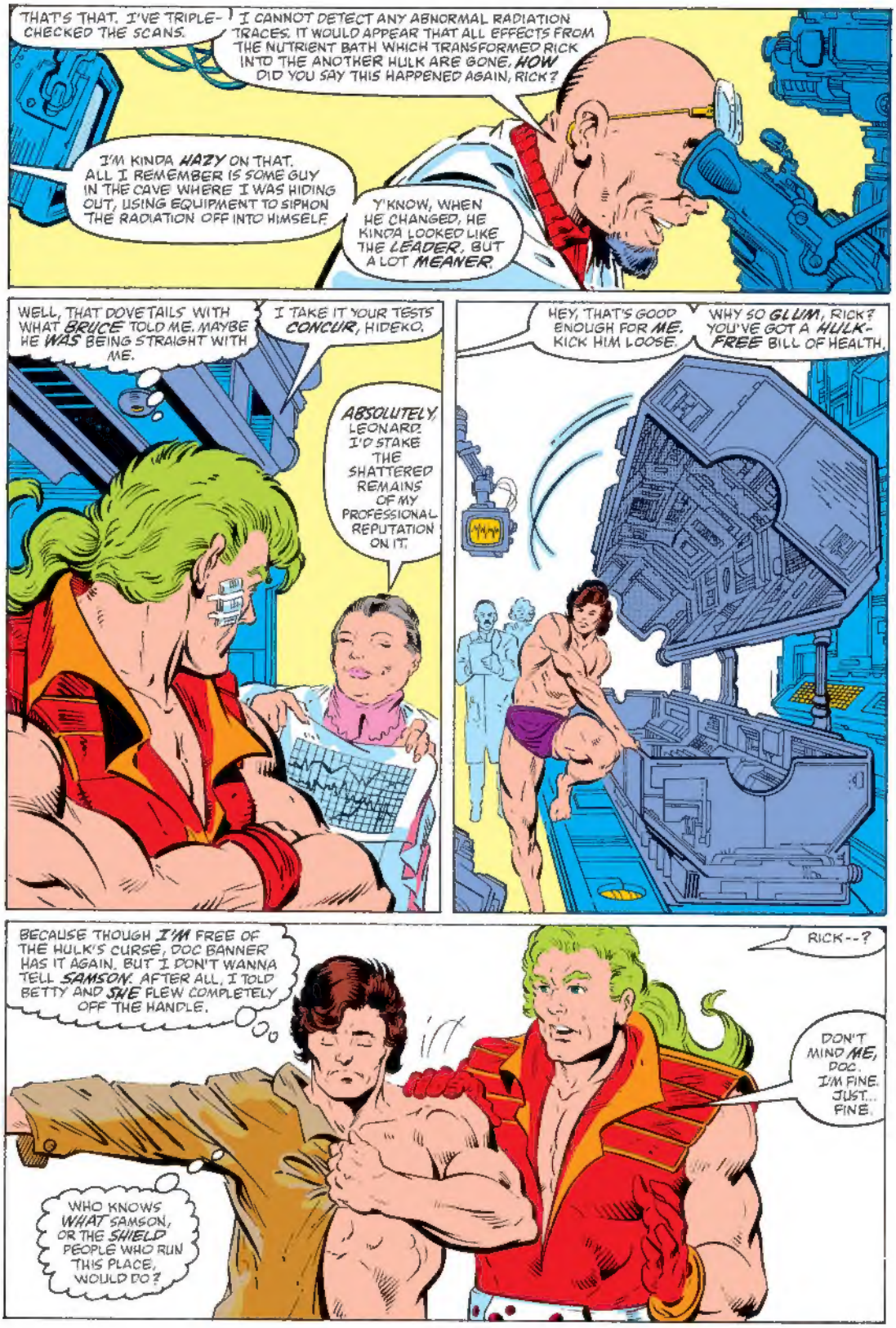
GRAVE CIRCUMSTANCES

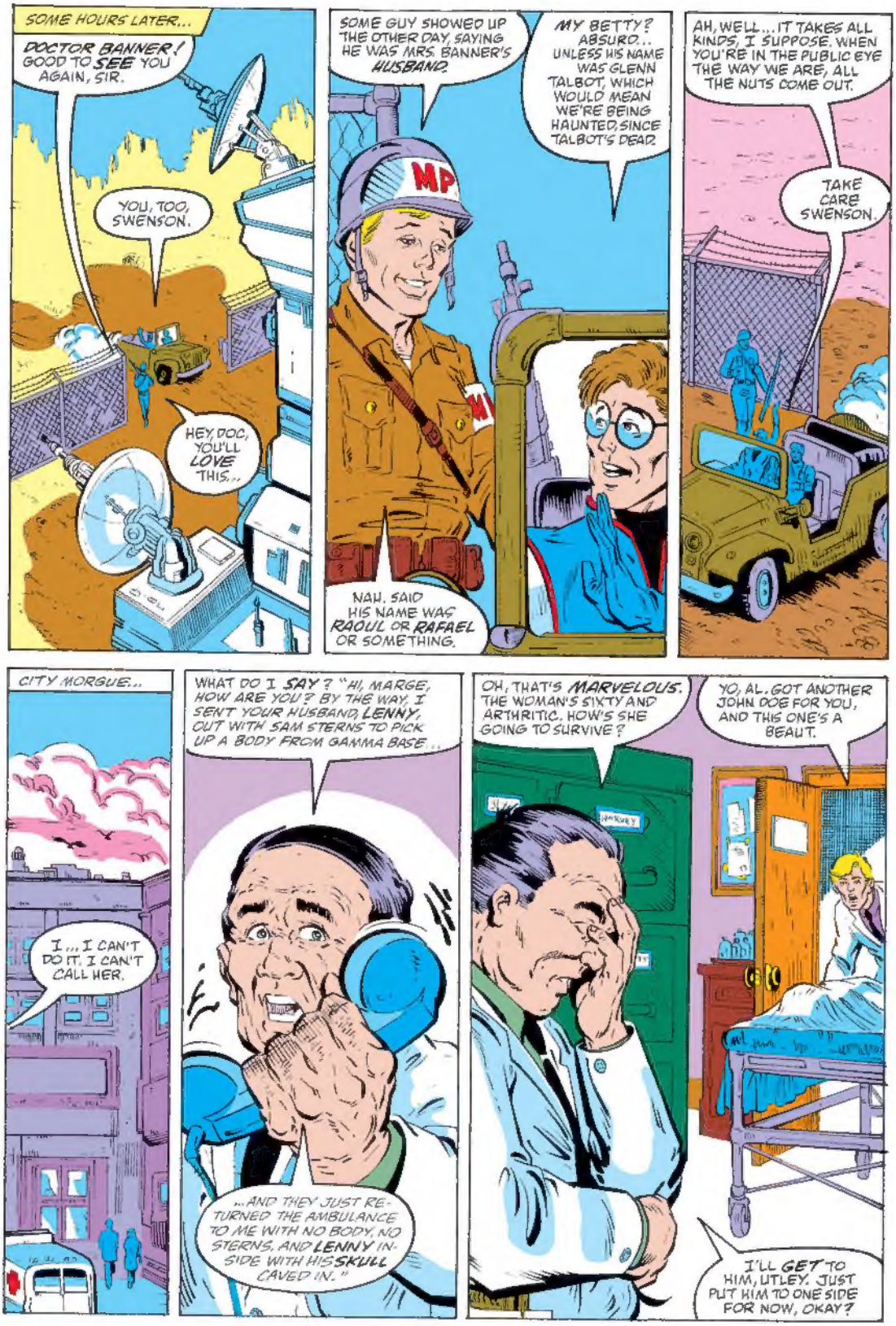

BASE, THIS IS McMURPHY. YOU'RE NOT GONNA BELIEVE THIS, BUT THERE'S A HALF-NAKED GUY ON ONE OF THE BUTTES.
I'M COMING IN TO GET A CLOSER LOOK.
McMURPHY, YOU IDIOT, DON'T GET TOO CLOSE. THE WIND FROM YOUR ROTORS COULD BLOW HIM OFF!
WHOOPS!
"WHOOPS!" WHAT DO YOU MEAN, "WHOOPS," McMURPHY? YOU DIDN'T--
NAH, HE'S FINE. I'M DROPPING THE ROPE LADDER FOR HIM.
GOOD, McMURPHY. WE DON'T WANT ANY MORE SCREW-UPS.
ME, NEITHER.
GOT IT! NOW-- PLEASE LET ME HAVE THE STRENGTH TO CLIMB UP!
PLEASE.
YOU OKAY, MISTER? MIND TELLING ME HOW YOU GOT UP THERE, MISTER... UH...
BELIEVE ME--YOU WOULDN'T BELIEVE IT.

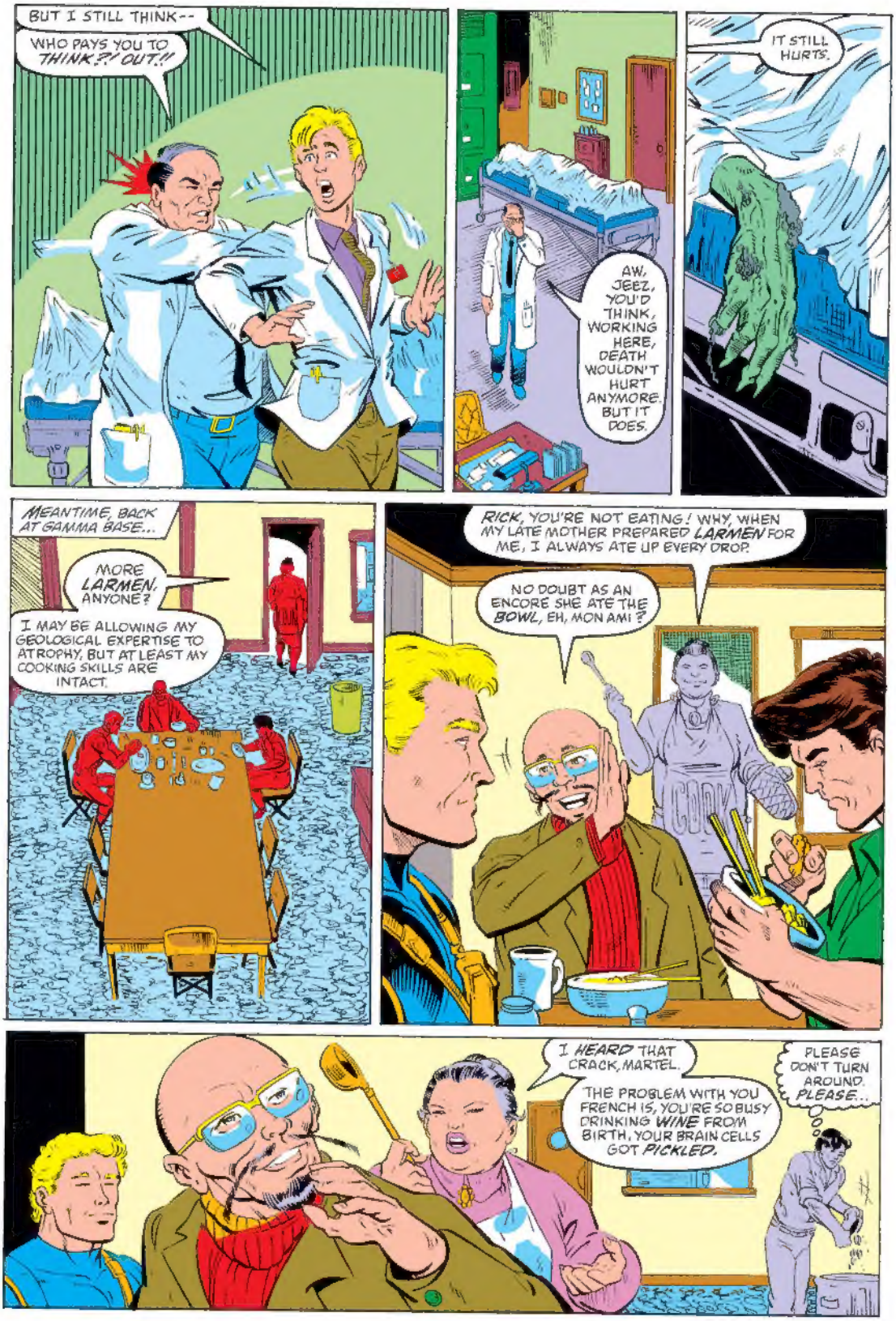

DID YOU SAY BRUCE BANNER?! YES, ABSOLUTELY, OPERATOR, I'LL BE GLAD TO ACCEPT THE CHARGES.
BRUCE, THIS IS LEONARD SAMSON! WHAT THE DEVIL HAPPENED TO YOU?
EVERYONE HERE AT GAMMA BASE HAS BEEN WORRIED SICK. WHERE ARE YOU?
WHAT?! BUT THAT'S 500 MILES AWAY. HOW DID YOU WIND UP THERE?
I'M NOT CERTAIN, LEONARD. I WENT OUT INTO THE FIELD, HOPING TO REASON WITH THE HULK IN PERSON, TO STOP HIS BATTLE WITH THE HULK BUSTERS.
NEXT THING I KNEW, THE LEADER SHOWED UP, TRIED TO PERSUADE ME TO JOIN HIM. I REFUSED, NATURALLY; HE RENDERED ME UNCONSCIOUS, AND THE NEXT THING I KNOW, I'M ON A PIECE OF ROCK A MILE HIGH.
APRIL
I HATE HIDING THE FULL FACTS FROM LEONARD, BUT SOMETHING TELLS ME THE LONGER I CAN AVOID TELLING HIM I'M REVERTING TO THE HULK AGAIN, THE BETTER.
ONCE BACK AT GAMMA BASE, PERHAPS I CAN FIND A WAY TO CURE MYSELF OF THE HULK QUICKLY, COMPLETELY. BEFORE I HAVE TO BOTHER ANYONE ABOUT IT.
OLD BOOK SHOP
ATTRACTIVE CALENDAR GIRL.
BRUCE, STAY PUT. I'LL SEND A PLANE OUT TO YOU FROM GAMMA TRANSPORT POOL. YOU'LL BE BACK HOME WITHIN TWO HOURS.
EXCELLENT, LEONARD. AND DON'T WORRY. I'M NOT GOING ANYWHERE UNTIL YOUR PEOPLE ARRIVE.
NOW I KNOW WHY SHE LOOKS SO ATTRACTIVE SHE LOOKS A GREAT DEAL LIKE MY WIFE, BETTY.
LORD, I MISS HER. I SUPPOSE THAT'S HOW YOU KNOW YOU'RE REALLY IN LOVE.
YOU SEE HER FACE EVERYWHERE YOU GO.

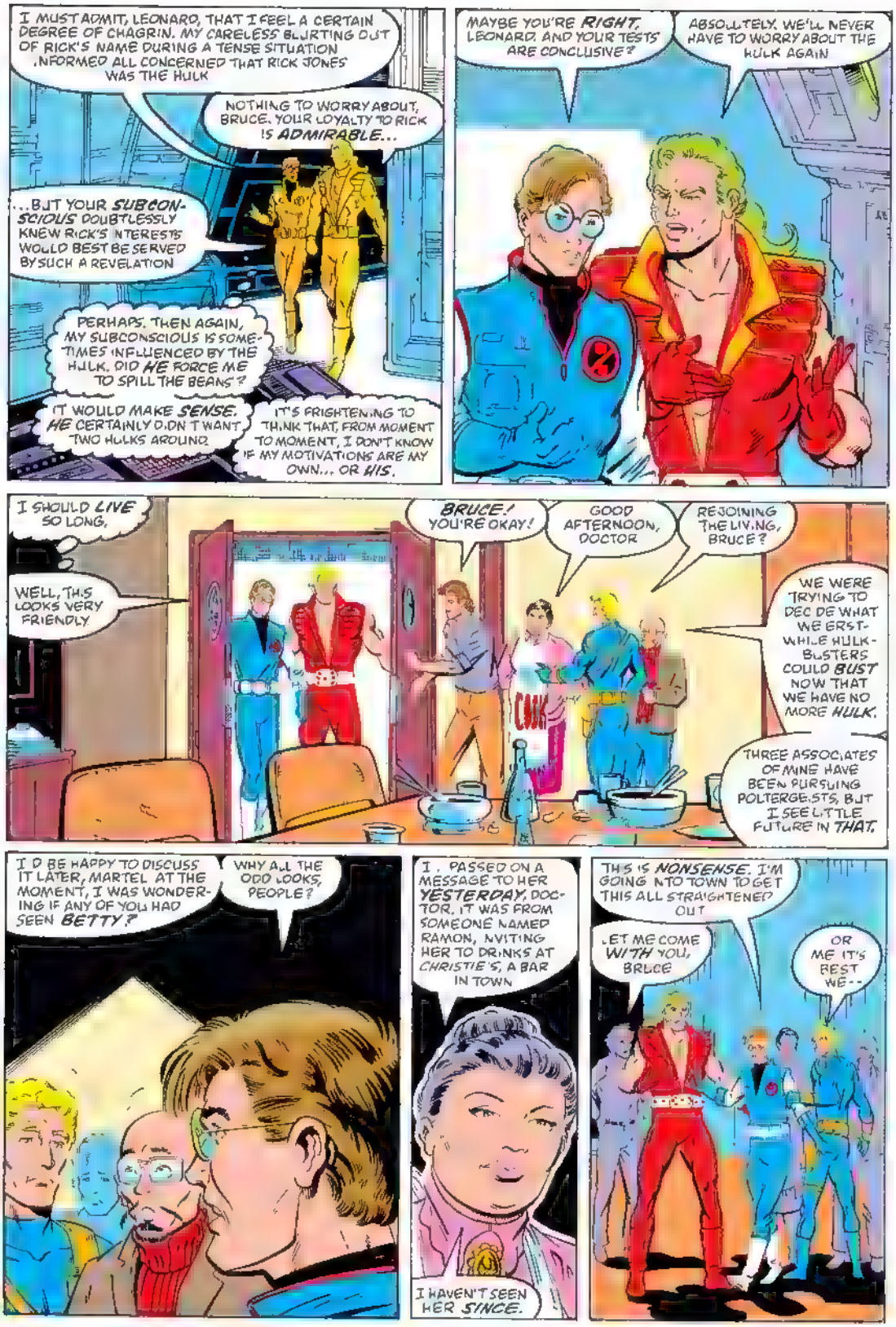

I CAN'T BELIEVE WE ACTUALLY DID IT.
RAMON AND I TALKED... JUST TALKED... UNTIL 4 A.M. I DON'T THINK RAMON BELIEVED IT HIMSELF.
MR. MACHO. "HEY, BABE, I'M NOT TIRED NO PROBLEM. JUST GONNA REST MY EYES FOR A MINUTE."
HE STILL SNORES.
I WAS SO ANGRY WHEN RAMON FIRST CALLED ME OUT AT GAMMA BASE. HE WAS A PART OF MY LIFE I'D CONSIDERED PAST, AND IT WAS SUCH A SHOCK TO HAVE HIM THRUST BACK INTO IT.
I SO WANTED MY NEW LIFE: MARRIED TO BRUCE WITH THE SPECTER OF THE HULK BEHIND US. THEN I FOUND OUT BRUCE VOLUNTARILY UNLEASHED THE HULK AGAIN... JUST AS HE APPARENTLY DID YEARS AGO AND I NEVER KNEW ABOUT IT.
AND THIS TIME, WHEN RAMON CONTACTED ME, I CAME. BUT WHY?
FUNNY HOW ALL THE ARROGANCE VANISHES FROM HIS FACE WHEN HE'S ASLEEP.
REALLY. WHAT'S FOR ME BACK AT GAMMA? DR. BRUCE BANNER, WHO MARRIED ME AND THEN HAS HAD VIRTUALLY NO TIME FOR ME SINCE. I EVEN HAD TO BEG AND PLEAD JUST FOR HIM TO TAKE TIME AWAY FROM HIS HULK-HUNTING FOR A HONEYMOON.
HOTEL
I'VE READ ABOUT DOCTORS' WIVES BEING UNHAPPY, FEELING NEGLECTED, ALWAYS BEING A FIFTH WHEEL...
NEVER THOUGHT OF MYSELF AS A "DOCTOR'S WIFE." GUESS I AM. BUT MY DOCTOR ISN'T CALLED OUT AT ODD HOURS TO DELIVER KIDS.
JUST MONSTERS.
FOR ALL HIS POSTURING, ALL HIS "MACHISMO," RAMON'S BEEN THERE FOR ME. IN THE PAST HE PICKED ME UP WHEN I WAS DOWN, HELD ME CLOSE WHEN I WAS SICK, WORKED LIKE A DOG TO SUPPORT US.
WHAT'S BRUCE DONE? LIED TO ME. IGNORED ME. MARRIED ME AS IF I WERE SOME DANGLING LOOSE END TO BE TIED UP.
BUT I CAN'T JUST WALK OUT ON BRUCE. FOR ALL THAT, I STILL LOVE HIM. I THINK! AND I MADE VOWS TO HIM.
SO WHERE DOES MY RESPONSIBILITY LIE? TO BRUCE? TO ME? OR TO US?


MEANTIME, BACK AT GAMMA BASE...
I HAVE NO BASIS TO THINK SO... NONE AT ALL.
AND YET, I CAN'T SHAKE THE FEELING THAT BRUCE WASN'T COMPLETELY CANDID WITH ME.
BECAUSE I HAVE ANOTHER EXPLANATION AS TO WHY BRUCE WOUND UP 500 MILES AWAY... NAMELY THAT HE'S TRANSFORMING, UNCONTROLLED, BACK INTO THE GRAY HULK.
BUT HE WOULD TELL ME, WOULDN'T HE? AS A SCIENTIST EXPOSED TO GAMMA RAYS, THE SAME AS HE WAS, BRUCE WOULD CERTAINLY CONFIDE IN ME. WOULDN'T HE?
WHISH
WELL, FIRST THINGS FIRST. BEFORE I START WORRYING ABOUT ONE HULK, LET'S MAKE SURE THE OTHER IS GONE FOR GOOD.
HIDEKO?
YOU'VE HAD TIME ENOUGH HERE TO DISSECT RICK JONES CHROMOSOME BY CHROMOSOME. WHAT'S THE VERDICT?
PATIENCE, DOCTOR SAMSON. MARTEL?
A MOMENT, HIDEKO. I WANT TO CHECK THE RADIATION LEVELS ON RICK'S CELL STRUCTURE ONCE MORE.
THAT DOC SAMSON'S VOICE OVER THERE? HEY, DOC--
HOW MUCH LONGER I GOTTA BE COOPED UP IN THIS THING? I KEEP EXPECTING DOUG HENNING TO COME AT ME WITH A SAW.


THAT'S THAT. I'VE TRIPLE-CHECKED THE SCANS.
I CANNOT DETECT ANY ABNORMAL RADIATION TRACES. IT WOULD APPEAR THAT ALL EFFECTS FROM THE NUTRIENT BATH WHICH TRANSFORMED RICK INTO THE ANOTHER HULK ARE GONE. HOW DID YOU SAY THIS HAPPENED AGAIN, RICK?
I'M KINDA HAZY ON THAT. ALL I REMEMBER IS SOME GUY IN THE CAVE WHERE I WAS HIDING OUT, USING EQUIPMENT TO SIPHON THE RADIATION OFF INTO HIMSELF.
Y'KNOW, WHEN HE CHANGED, HE KINDA LOOKED LIKE THE LEADER, BUT A LOT MEANER.
WELL, THAT DOVETAILS WITH WHAT BRUCE TOLD ME. MAYBE HE WAS BEING STRAIGHT WITH ME.
I TAKE IT YOUR TESTS CONCUR, HIDEKO.
ABSOLUTELY, LEONARD. I'D STAKE THE SHATTERED REMAINS OF MY PROFESSIONAL REPUTATION ON IT.
HEY, THAT'S GOOD ENOUGH FOR ME. KICK HIM LOOSE.
WHY SO GLUM, RICK? YOU'VE GOT A HULK-FREE BILL OF HEALTH.
BECAUSE THOUGH I'M FREE OF THE HULK'S CURSE, DOC BANNER HAS IT AGAIN. BUT I DON'T WANNA TELL SAMSON. AFTER ALL, I TOLD BETTY AND SHE FLEW COMPLETELY OFF THE HANDLE.
RICK--?
DON'T MIND ME, DOC. I'M FINE. JUST... FINE.
WHO KNOWS WHAT SAMSON, OR THE SHIELD PEOPLE WHO RUN THIS PLACE, WOULD DO?

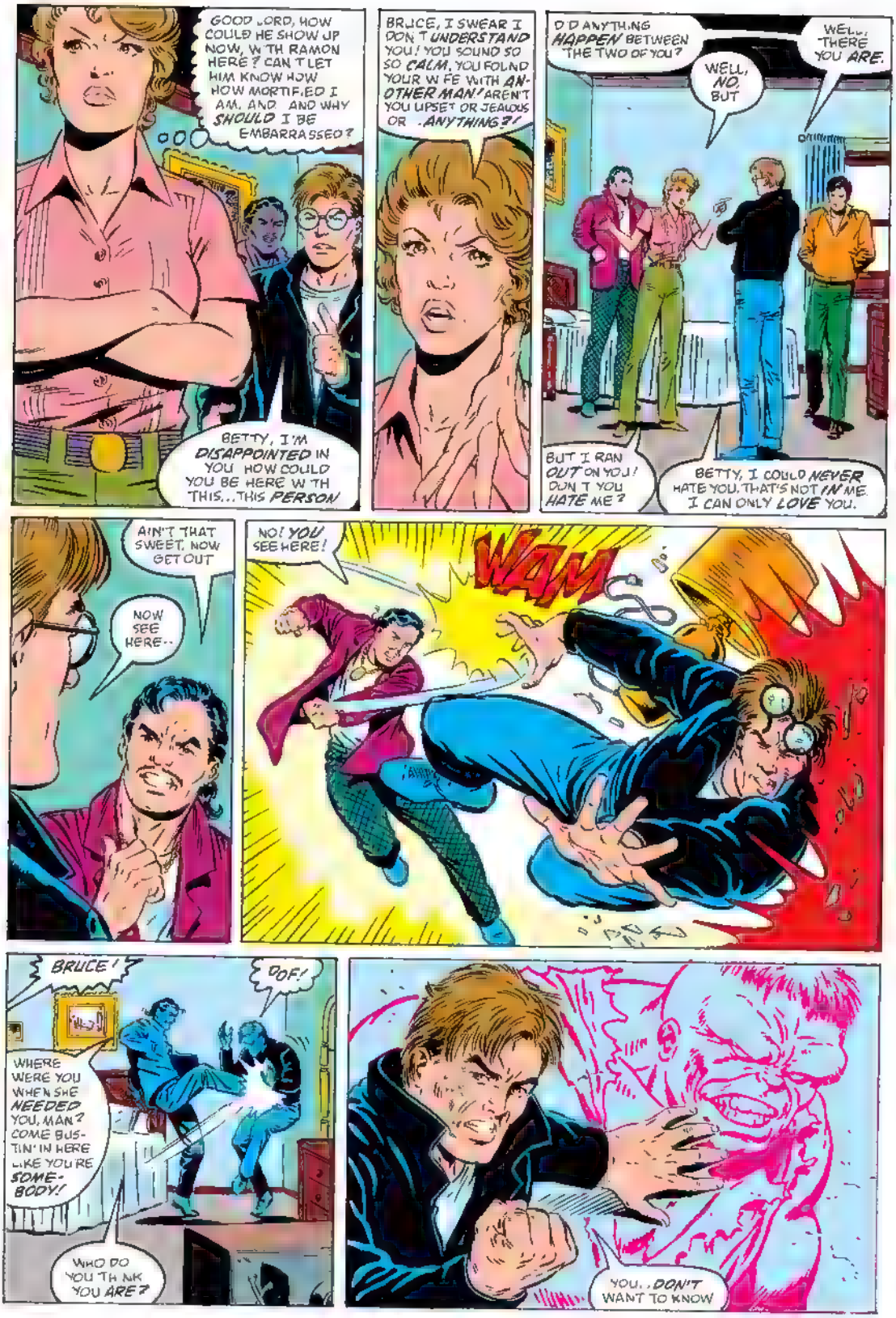

SOME HOURS LATER...
DOCTOR BANNER! GOOD TO SEE YOU AGAIN, SIR.
YOU, TOO, SWENSON.
HEY, DOC, YOU'LL LOVE THIS...
SOME GUY SHOWED UP THE OTHER DAY, SAYING HE WAS MRS. BANNER'S HUSBAND.
MY BETTY? ABSURD... UNLESS HIS NAME WAS GLENN TALBOT, WHICH WOULD MEAN WE'RE BEING HAUNTED, SINCE TALBOT'S DEAD.
MP
NAH. SAID HIS NAME WAS RAOUL OR RAFAEL OR SOMETHING.
AH, WELL... IT TAKES ALL KINDS, I SUPPOSE. WHEN YOU'RE IN THE PUBLIC EYE THE WAY WE ARE, ALL THE NUTS COME OUT.
TAKE CARE SWENSON.
CITY MORGUE...
I... I CAN'T DO IT. I CAN'T CALL HER.
WHAT DO I SAY? "HI, MARGE, HOW ARE YOU? BY THE WAY, I SENT YOUR HUSBAND, LENNY, OUT WITH SAM STERNS TO PICK UP A BODY FROM GAMMA BASE..."
...AND THEY JUST RETURNED THE AMBULANCE TO ME WITH NO BODY, NO STERNS, AND LENNY INSIDE WITH HIS SKULL CAVED IN."
OH, THAT'S MARVELOUS. THE WOMAN'S SIXTY AND ARTHRITIC. HOW'S SHE GOING TO SURVIVE?
YO, AL. GOT ANOTHER JOHN DOE FOR YOU, AND THIS ONE'S A BEAUT.
I'LL GET TO HIM, UTLEY. JUST PUT HIM TO ONE SIDE FOR NOW, OKAY?


BUT I STILL THINK--
WHO PAYS YOU TO THINK?! OUT!!
AW, JEEZ, YOU'D THINK, WORKING HERE, DEATH WOULDN'T HURT ANYMORE. BUT IT DOES.
IT STILL HURTS.
MEANTIME, BACK AT GAMMA BASE...
MORE LARMEN, ANYONE?
I MAY BE ALLOWING MY GEOLOGICAL EXPERTISE TO ATROPHY, BUT AT LEAST MY COOKING SKILLS ARE INTACT.
RICK, YOU'RE NOT EATING! WHY, WHEN MY LATE MOTHER PREPARED LARMEN FOR ME, I ALWAYS ATE UP EVERY DROP.
NO DOUBT AS AN ENCORE SHE ATE THE BOWL, EH, MON AMI?
I HEARD THAT CRACK, MARTEL.
THE PROBLEM WITH YOU FRENCH IS, YOU'RE SO BUSY DRINKING WINE FROM BIRTH, YOUR BRAIN CELLS GOT PICKLED.
PLEASE DON'T TURN AROUND. PLEASE...


I MUST ADMIT, LEONARO, THAT I FEEL A CERTAIN DEGREE OF CHAGRIN. MY CARELESS BLURTING OUT OF RICK'S NAME DURING A TENSE SITUATION INFORMED ALL CONCERNED THAT RICK JONES WAS THE HULK
NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT, BRUCE. YOUR LOYALTY TO RICK IS ADMIRABLE...
...BUT YOUR SUBCONSCIOUS DOUBTLESSLY KNEW RICK'S INTERESTS WOULD BEST BE SERVED BY SUCH A REVELATION
PERHAPS. THEN AGAIN, MY SUBCONSCIOUS IS SOMETIMES INFLUENCED BY THE HULK. DID HE FORCE ME TO SPILL THE BEANS?
IT WOULD MAKE SENSE. HE CERTAINLY DIDN'T WANT TWO HULKS AROUND.
IT'S FRIGHTENING TO THINK THAT, FROM MOMENT TO MOMENT, I DON'T KNOW IF MY MOTIVATIONS ARE MY OWN... OR HIS.
MAYBE YOU'RE RIGHT, LEONARD. AND YOUR TESTS ARE CONCLUSIVE?
ABSOLUTELY. WE'LL NEVER HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT THE HULK AGAIN
I SHOULD LIVE SO LONG.
WELL, THIS LOOKS VERY FRIENDLY
BRUCE! YOU'RE OKAY!
GOOD AFTERNOON, DOCTOR
REJOINING THE LIVING, BRUCE?
WE WERE TRYING TO DECIDE WHAT WE ERSTWHILE HULK-BUSTERS COULD BUST NOW THAT WE HAVE NO MORE HULK.
THREE ASSOCIATES OF MINE HAVE BEEN PURSUING POLTERGEISTS, BUT I SEE LITTLE FUTURE IN THAT.
I'D BE HAPPY TO DISCUSS IT LATER, MARTEL AT THE MOMENT, I WAS WONDERING IF ANY OF YOU HAD SEEN BETTY?
WHY ALL THE ODD LOOKS, PEOPLE?
I PASSED ON A MESSAGE TO HER YESTERDAY, DOCTOR. IT WAS FROM SOMEONE NAMED RAMON, INVITING HER TO DRINKS AT CHRISTIE'S, A BAR IN TOWN
I HAVEN'T SEEN HER SINCE.
THIS IS NONSENSE. I'M GOING INTO TOWN TO GET THIS ALL STRAIGHTENED OUT
LET ME COME WITH YOU, BRUCE
OR ME IT'S BEST WE--

I APPRECIATE YOUR CONCERN, LEONARD. CLAY. BUT I BELIEVE I KNOW WHAT'S BEST HERE I'M BETTY'S HUSBAND, AND IT'S H GH TIME I STARTED ACT NG LIKE IT
BUT, WHEN BRUCE HAS CHANGED AND GONE OUT TO HIS JEEP
RICK! WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU RE--
HEY, COOL IT, MAN. I BET THE OTHER GUYS I WOULD-N'T HAVE THE NERVE TO COME OUT HERE
HA-HA THAT'S HOW IT STARTED OUT FOR US, WASN'T IT, RICK? YOUR FIRST WORDS TO ME..
ALL RIGHT, POINT TAKEN WE'RE A TEAM. BUT I'M DRIVING.
AND, IN GAMMA BASE INFIRMARY
I KNOW YOU'RE BITTER ABOUT THE NJURIES YOU AND SALNDERS SUSTAINED WHILE BATTLING THE HULK LA-ROQUETTE BUT THE OTHER HULK-BUSTERS HAVE EX-PRESSED THEIR CONCERN FOR--
DON'T KID A KIDDER, SAMSON. WE'RE NO HULK-BUSTERS WE NEVER WON A SINGLE FIGHT. EVEN OUR TRAINING MISSIONS WERE DISASTERS WE'RE JUST A HI-TECH JOKE
BUT SAUNDERS AND I ARE T RED OF BEING PUNCHLINES. ONCE WE'RE RECOVERED, WE'RE OUT OF HERE
AND YOU CAN BLOW GAMMA BASE OUT YOUR KAZOO

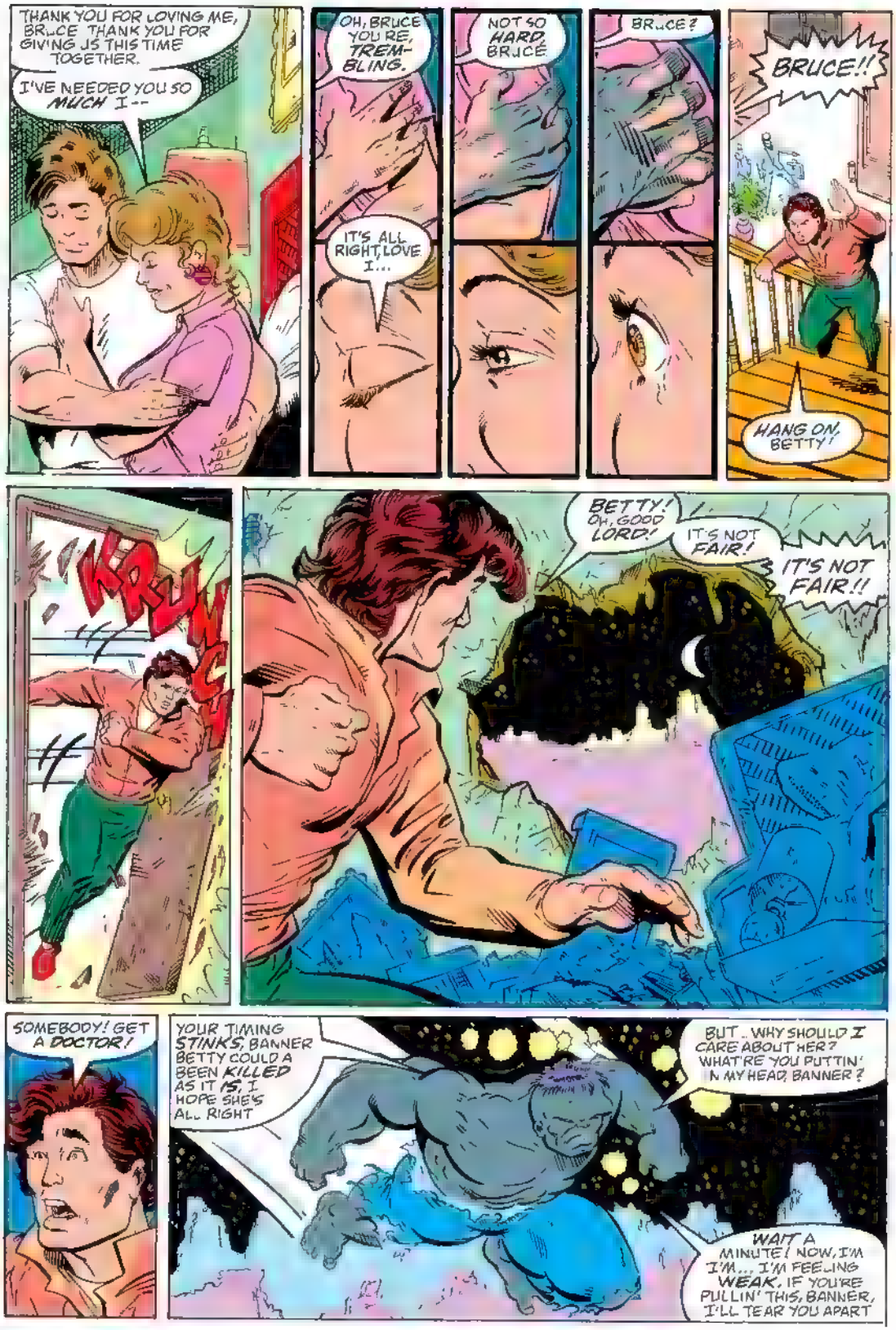
LATER, AT THE ONLY HOTEL IN TOWN..
RAMON? YEAH, I THINK THE GREASY GUY IN ROOM 12 CALLS HIMSELF RAMON
LEAST THAT'S WHAT THE AIR-HEAD WITH HIM CALLED HIM.
HOTEL
HEAR THAT, RICK? IT COULDN'T HAVE BEEN BETTY HE WAS WITH A.. ER.. 'A.RHEAD.'
HEY, I'M RELIEVED.
YEAH. HERE IT IS ROOM 12.
I FEEL LIKE A FOOL, BOTHERING SOME INNOCENT MAN...
DOC, I DON'T WANNA RAIN ON YOUR PARADE, BUT I COULD SWEAR I JUST HEARD BETTY'S VOICE IN THERE
NO. THAT'S ABSURD
12
NOK NOK
BETTY! BETTY, YOU'RE NOT IN THERE, ARE YOU?
DO NOT
SHE DOESN'T WANT TO SEE YOU, MAN.
BUT I'M GOING TO SEE HER!
12
WOW! NEVER SEEN BRUCE SO PUSHY BEFORE. NOT THAT I BLAME HIM
DO NOT DISTURB

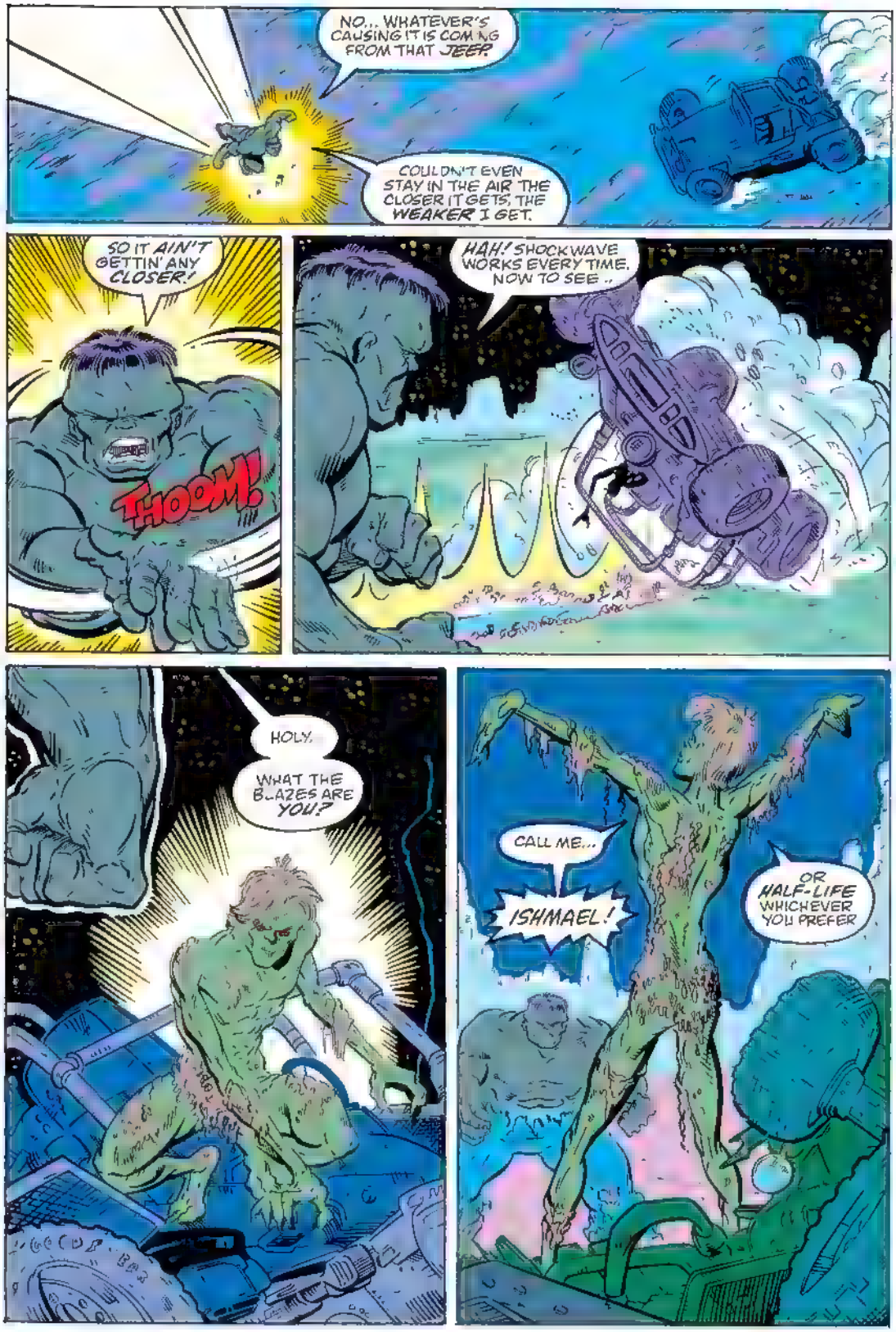

GOOD LORD, HOW COULD HE SHOW UP NOW, WITH RAMON HERE? CAN'T LET HIM KNOW HOW HOW MORTIFIED I AM. AND AND WHY SHOULD I BE EMBARRASSED?
BETTY, I'M DISAPPOINTED IN YOU. HOW COULD YOU BE HERE WITH THIS...THIS PERSON
BRUCE, I SWEAR I DON'T UNDERSTAND YOU! YOU SOUND SO SO CALM. YOU FOUND YOUR WIFE WITH ANOTHER MAN! AREN'T YOU UPSET OR JEALOUS OR ...ANYTHING?!
D'D ANYTHING HAPPEN BETWEEN THE TWO OF YOU?
WELL, NO, BUT
WELL, THERE YOU ARE.
BUT I RAN OUT ON YOU! DON'T YOU HATE ME?
BETTY, I COULD NEVER HATE YOU. THAT'S NOT IN ME. I CAN ONLY LOVE YOU.
AIN'T THAT SWEET. NOW GET OUT
NOW SEE HERE..
NO! YOU SEE HERE!
WAM
BRUCE!
OOF!
WHERE WERE YOU WHEN SHE NEEDED YOU, MAN? COME BUSTIN' IN HERE LIKE YOU'RE SOMEBODY!
WHO DO YOU THINK YOU ARE?
YOU...DON'T WANT TO KNOW

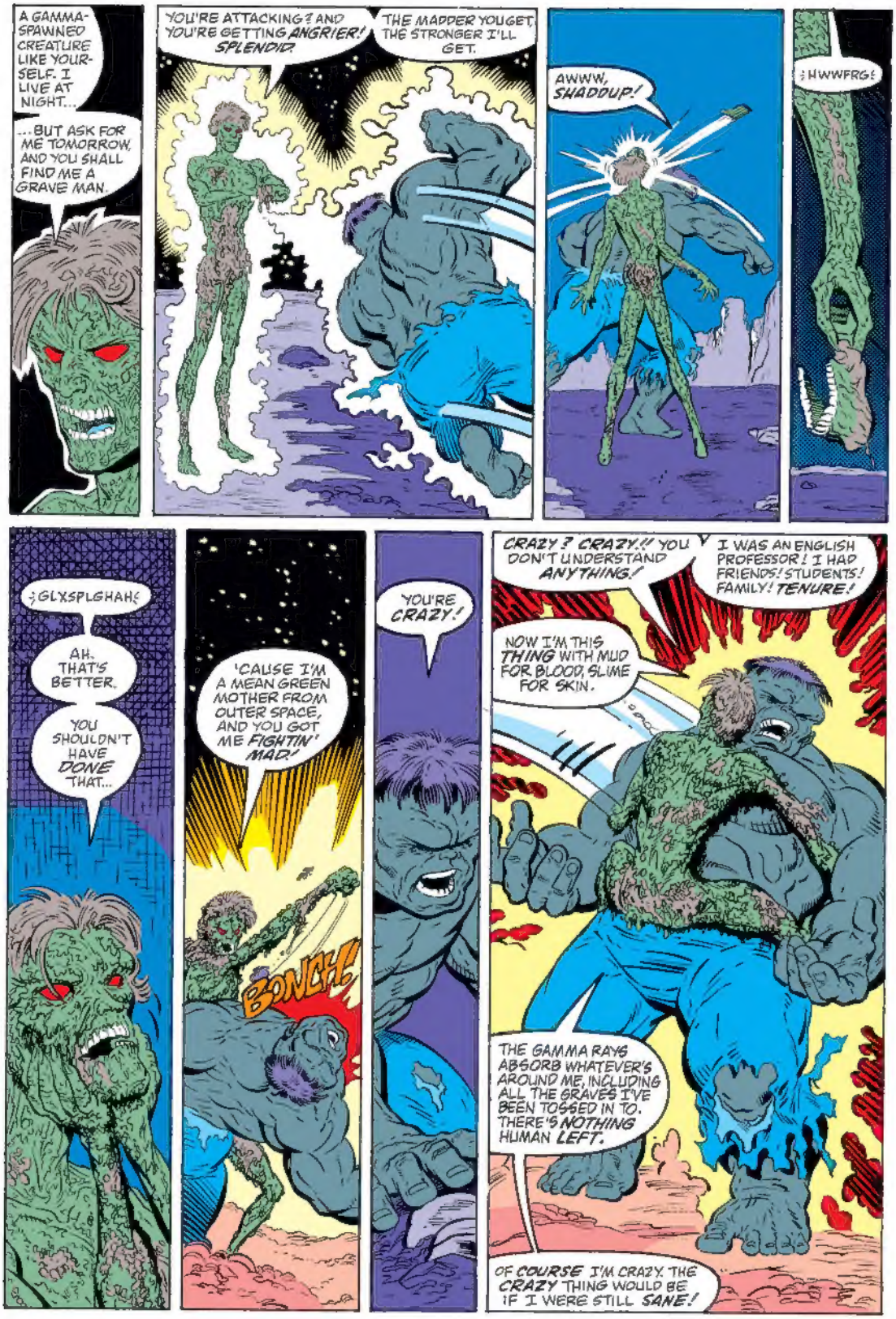
BRUCE! OH, LORD, I'M SO SORRY--
HE DON'T DESERVE YOU, BABE! HE DON'T GET MAD OR FIGHT! HE'S NO MAN AT ALL!
WHAT, JUST 'CAUSE BRUCE DOESN'T TALK WITH HIS FISTS, HE'S NOT YOUR IDEA OF A MAN?
POW!
YEAH! THAT'S RIGHT!
THAT'S WRONG.
WAK
OH, I WAS HOPING YOU'D TRY SOMETHING ELSE.
YOU WON'T DODGE THIS, PUNK!
KRAK
THIS TIME YOU'RE RIGHT
THAT'LL TEACH YOU TO MUCK WITH CAPTAIN AMERICA'S OLD PARTNER

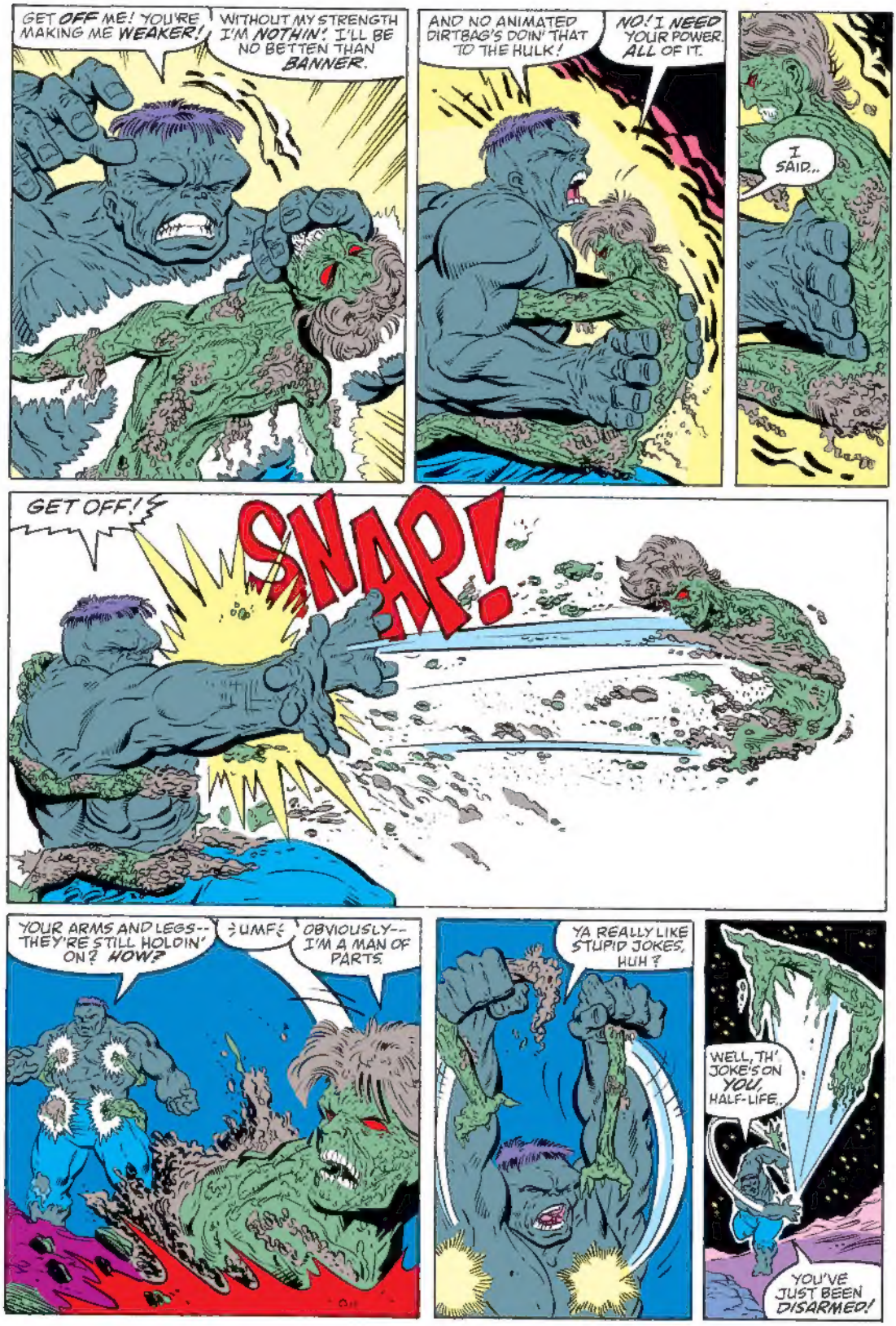
BETTY, I DON'T UNDERSTAND! DO YOU THINK SO LITTLE OF YOURSELF THAT YOU SPEND TIME WITH A MAN LIKE THAT? HAVE I DRIVEN YOU TO THIS?
IT'S JUST THAT... YOU ALWAYS HAVE TIME FOR EVERYTHING EXCEPT ME, BRUCE, AND IF I COMPLAIN, YOU'RE ALWAYS CALMLY LOGICAL
THAT'S WHAT RAMON OFFERS--HIGHS AND LOWS, TEMPER AND MOODS
THERE'S NO PASSION IN OUR MARRIAGE BRUCE. ALWAYS WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE; NEVER WHAT COULD BE DONE. YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE RHETT BUTLER ALL THE TIME, BUT COULDN'T YOU BE SPONTANEOUS, ROMANTIC...
ONCE IN A WHILE?
MOMENTS LATER, IN THE LOBBY
ROOMS
SECOND FLOOR IS FINE, THANK YOU.
BUT DOC, WE SHOULD REALLY BE GETTING BACK TO GAMMA BASE, DON'T YOU THINK!
SUNDOWN'S AT SIX. RICK GET US IN AN HOUR, AT FIVE. IT'S ONLY TWENTY MINUTES TO GAMMA.
BRUCE! PUT ME DOWN! YOU'LL THROW OUT YOUR BACK!
FRANKLY, MY DEAR, I DON'T... DON'T GIVE OH, BOY
CAN I WALK NOW, RHETT?
OH WELL...
"...THAT'S LIFE."
MORGUE
THAT'S THE FOURTH TIME I'VE TALKED TO HER TODAY
SHE'S STRAIGHT BUT WHAT DO I EXPECT? SHE'LL BE A MESS WITHOUT LENNY
SPEAKING OF MESSES, LET'S SEE WHAT'S SO SPECIAL ABOUT THIS STIFF
CAN'T BELIEVE IT'S ANYTHING I'VE NEVER SEEN BEFORE.

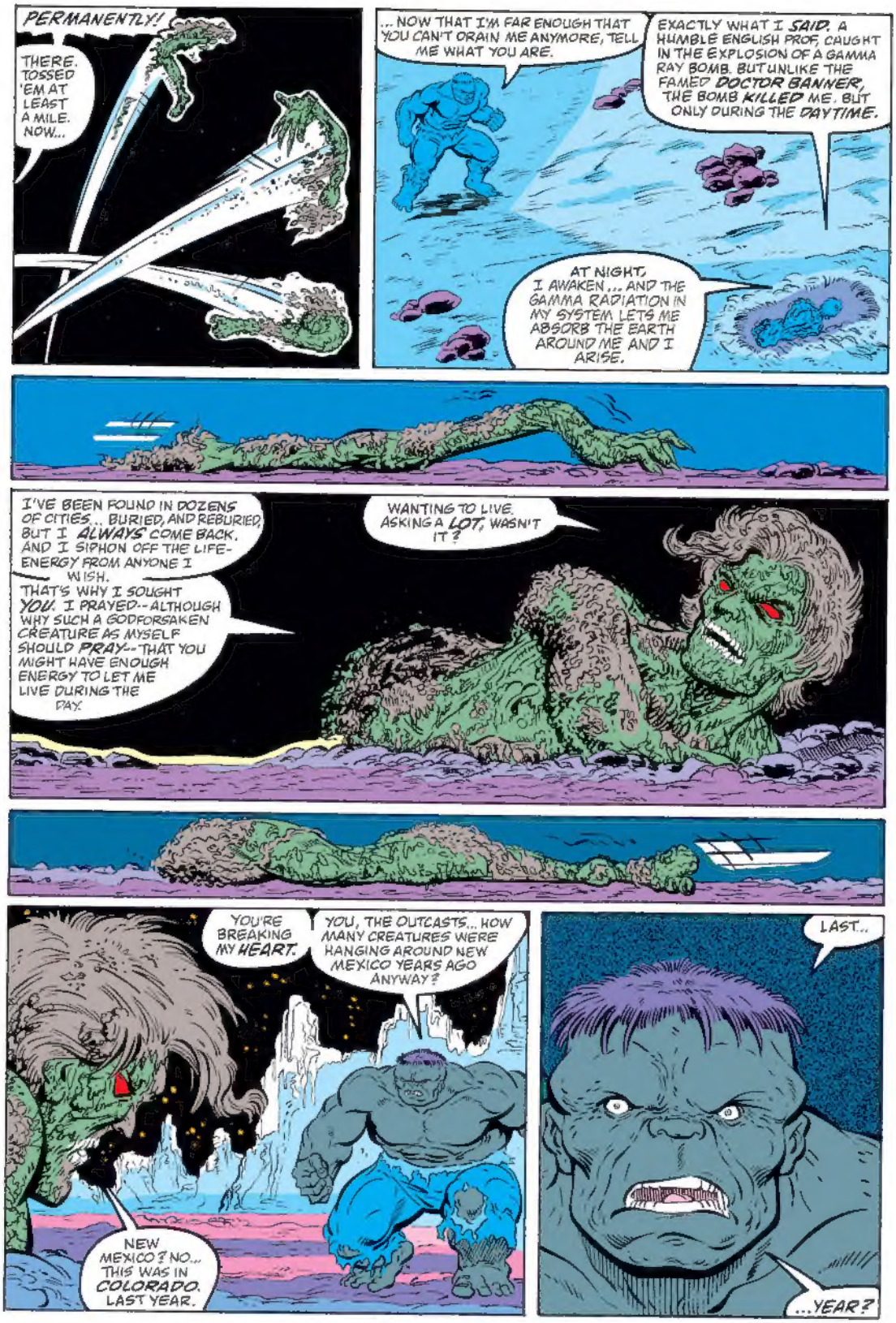
GOOD EVENING
YOU'RE SURE YOU'RE OVER 18, PAL?
LEN'S BAR
ME? I'VE BEEN OVER EIGHTEEN SINCE I WAS B--
HOLY CROW! IT'S GETTING DARK OUT! BUT IT'S NOT EVEN FIVE YET!
YEAH WE TURNED THE CLOCKS BACK AN HOUR YESTERDAY*GETS DARK AN HOUR EARLIER NOW DON'T YOU WATCH TV OR ANYTHING?
*CHECK OUT LAST ISSUE IF YOU DON'T BELIEVE US-- BOB
DOC!
BETTY, WE REALLY HAVE TO BE GETTING BACK.
COME ON BRUCE JUST SNUGGLE WITH ME FOR A FEW M N-UTES MORE HONEST, THAT'S ALL.
I DON'T KNOW WOULD RHETT BUTLER SNUGGLE?
I HAVE IT ON THE BEST AUTHORITY.
WELL THEN, I CAN'T REFUSE

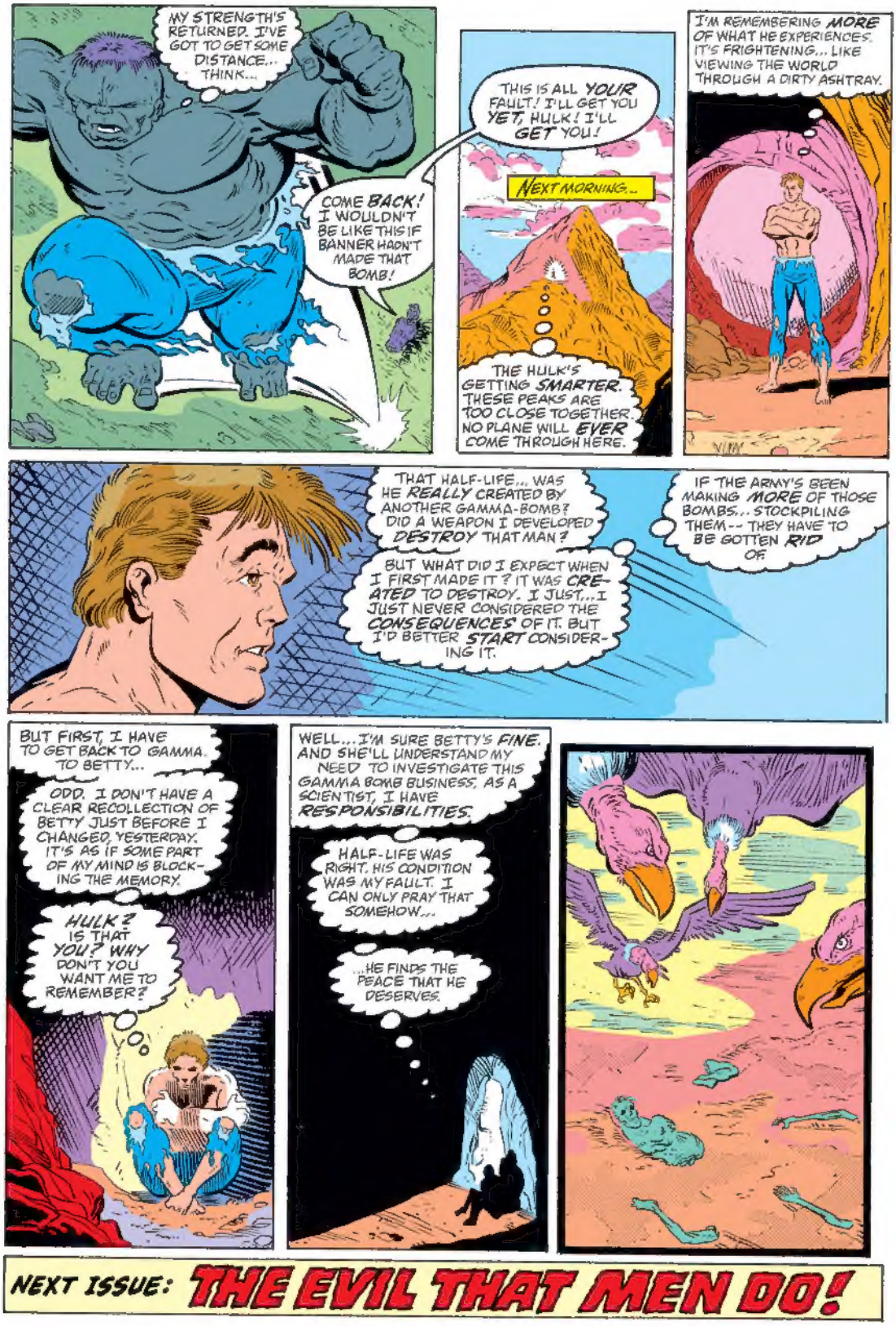

THANK YOU FOR LOVING ME, BRUCE. THANK YOU FOR GIVING US THIS TIME TOGETHER.
I'VE NEEDED YOU SO MUCH I--
OH, BRUCE YOU'RE, TREMBLING.
IT'S ALL RIGHT, LOVE I...
NOT SO HARD, BRUCE
BRUCE?
BRUCE!!
HANG ON, BETTY!
KRUNCH
BETTY! OH, GOOD LORD!
IT'S NOT FAIR!
IT'S NOT FAIR!!
SOMEBODY! GET A DOCTOR!
YOUR TIMING STINKS, BANNER BETTY COULD A BEEN KILLED AS IT IS, I HOPE SHE'S ALL RIGHT
BUT.. WHY SHOULD I CARE ABOUT HER? WHAT'RE YOU PUTTIN' IN MY HEAD, BANNER?
WAIT A MINUTE! NOW, I'M I'M... I'M FEELING WEAK. IF YOU'RE PULLIN' THIS, BANNER, I'LL TEAR YOU APART


NO... WHATEVER'S CAUSING IT IS COMING FROM THAT JEEP.
COULDN'T EVEN STAY IN THE AIR THE CLOSER IT GETS, THE WEAKER I GET.
SO IT AIN'T GETTIN' ANY CLOSER!
THOOM!
HAH! SHOCKWAVE WORKS EVERY TIME. NOW TO SEE ..
HOLY.
WHAT THE BLAZES ARE YOU?
CALL ME...
ISHMAEL!
OR HALF-LIFE WHICHEVER YOU PREFER


A GAMMA-SPAWNED CREATURE LIKE YOURSELF. I LIVE AT NIGHT...
...BUT ASK FOR ME TOMORROW, AND YOU SHALL FIND ME A GRAVE MAN.
YOU'RE ATTACKING? AND YOU'RE GETTING ANGRIER! SPLENDID!
THE MADDER YOU GET, THE STRONGER I'LL GET.
AWWW, SHADDUP!
:HWWFRG!
:GLXSPLGHAH!
AH. THAT'S BETTER.
YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE DONE THAT...
'CAUSE I'M A MEAN GREEN MOTHER FROM OUTER SPACE, AND YOU GOT ME FIGHTIN' MAD!
BONCH!
YOU'RE CRAZY!
CRAZY? CRAZY!! YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND ANYTHING!
I WAS AN ENGLISH PROFESSOR! I HAD FRIENDS! STUDENTS! FAMILY! TENURE!
NOW I'M THIS THING WITH MUD FOR BLOOD, SLIME FOR SKIN.
THE GAMMA RAYS ABSORB WHATEVER'S AROUND ME, INCLUDING ALL THE GRAVES I'VE BEEN TOSSED IN TO. THERE'S NOTHING HUMAN LEFT.
OF COURSE I'M CRAZY. THE CRAZY THING WOULD BE IF I WERE STILL SANE!


GET OFF ME! YOU'RE MAKING ME WEAKER!
WITHOUT MY STRENGTH I'M NOTHIN'! I'LL BE NO BETTEN THAN BANNER.
AND NO ANIMATED DIRTBAG'S DOIN' THAT TO THE HULK!
NO! I NEED YOUR POWER. ALL OF IT.
I SAID...
GET OFF!
SNAP!
YOUR ARMS AND LEGS-- THEY'RE STILL HOLDIN' ON? HOW?
UMF
OBVIOUSLY-- I'M A MAN OF PARTS.
YA REALLY LIKE STUPID JOKES, HUH?
WELL, TH' JOKE'S ON YOU, HALF-LIFE.
YOU'VE JUST BEEN DISARMED!


PERMANENTLY!
THERE. TOSSED 'EM AT LEAST A MILE. NOW...
... NOW THAT I'M FAR ENOUGH THAT YOU CAN'T DRAIN ME ANYMORE, TELL ME WHAT YOU ARE.
EXACTLY WHAT I SAID. A HUMBLE ENGLISH PROF, CAUGHT IN THE EXPLOSION OF A GAMMA RAY BOMB. BUT UNLIKE THE FAMED DOCTOR BANNER, THE BOMB KILLED ME. BUT ONLY DURING THE DAYTIME.
AT NIGHT, I AWAKEN... AND THE GAMMA RADIATION IN MY SYSTEM LETS ME ABSORB THE EARTH AROUND ME AND I ARISE.
I'VE BEEN FOUND IN DOZENS OF CITIES... BURIED, AND REBURIED, BUT I ALWAYS COME BACK. AND I SIPHON OFF THE LIFE-ENERGY FROM ANYONE I WISH.
WANTING TO LIVE. ASKING A LOT, WASN'T IT?
THAT'S WHY I SOUGHT YOU. I PRAYED--ALTHOUGH WHY SUCH A GODFORSAKEN CREATURE AS MYSELF SHOULD PRAY--THAT YOU MIGHT HAVE ENOUGH ENERGY TO LET ME LIVE DURING THE DAY.
YOU'RE BREAKING MY HEART.
YOU, THE OUTCASTS... HOW MANY CREATURES WERE HANGING AROUND NEW MEXICO YEARS AGO ANYWAY?
NEW MEXICO? NO... THIS WAS IN COLORADO. LAST YEAR.
LAST...
...YEAR?


MY STRENGTH'S RETURNED. I'VE GOT TO GET SOME DISTANCE... THINK...
COME BACK! I WOULDN'T BE LIKE THIS IF BANNER HADN'T MADE THAT BOMB!
THIS IS ALL YOUR FAULT! I'LL GET YOU YET, HULK! I'LL GET YOU!
NEXT MORNING...
THE HULK'S GETTING SMARTER. THESE PEAKS ARE TOO CLOSE TOGETHER. NO PLANE WILL EVER COME THROUGH HERE.
I'M REMEMBERING MORE OF WHAT HE EXPERIENCES. IT'S FRIGHTENING... LIKE VIEWING THE WORLD THROUGH A DIRTY ASHTRAY.
THAT HALF-LIFE... WAS HE REALLY CREATED BY ANOTHER GAMMA-BOMB? DID A WEAPON I DEVELOPED DESTROY THAT MAN?
BUT WHAT DID I EXPECT WHEN I FIRST MADE IT? IT WAS CREATED TO DESTROY. I JUST... I JUST NEVER CONSIDERED THE CONSEQUENCES OF IT. BUT I'D BETTER START CONSIDERING IT.
IF THE ARMY'S BEEN MAKING MORE OF THOSE BOMBS... STOCKPILING THEM -- THEY HAVE TO BE GOTTEN RID OF.
BUT FIRST, I HAVE TO GET BACK TO GAMMA. TO BETTY...
ODD. I DON'T HAVE A CLEAR RECOLLECTION OF BETTY JUST BEFORE I CHANGED, YESTERDAY. IT'S AS IF SOME PART OF MY MIND IS BLOCKING THE MEMORY.
HULK? IS THAT YOU? WHY DON'T YOU WANT ME TO REMEMBER?
WELL... I'M SURE BETTY'S FINE. AND SHE'LL UNDERSTAND MY NEED TO INVESTIGATE THIS GAMMA BOMB BUSINESS. AS A SCIENTIST, I HAVE RESPONSIBILITIES.
HALF-LIFE WAS RIGHT. HIS CONDITION WAS MY FAULT. I CAN ONLY PRAY THAT SOMEHOW...
...HE FINDS THE PEACE THAT HE DESERVES.

NEXT ISSUE: **THE EVIL THAT MEN DO!**